

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 51

BY SENATORS ADLEY, ALARIO, ALLAIN, AMEDEE, APPEL, BROOME, BROWN, BUFFINGTON, CHABERT, CLAITOR, CORTEZ, CROWE, DONAHUE, DORSEY-COLOMB, ERDEY, GALLOT, GUILLORY, HEITMEIER, JOHNS, KOSTELKA, LAFLEUR, LONG, MARTINY, MILLS, MORRELL, MORRISH, MURRAY, NEVERS, PEACOCK, PERRY, PETERSON, RISER, GARY SMITH, JOHN SMITH, TARVER, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH, WARD AND WHITE

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of United States Army Staff Sergeant Nicholas P. Bellard in combat in Operation New Dawn.

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Bellard was a native of Crowley, Louisiana, growing up there before moving to El Paso, Texas, where he graduated from El Paso High School and attended the University of Texas at El Paso; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Bellard enlisted in the Army in 2003 and began his training as a cavalry scout and would ultimately be assigned to the 6th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Bellard and his unit would be deployed to the Iraqi theater of war as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom in January 2009 until November 2009; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Bellard settled back into married life in the West Texas community of Killeen with his wife, Veronica, and his two-year-old daughter, Eva, before he reenlisted and his unit was deployed once more to Iraq, this time in support of Operation New Dawn; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Bellard and the soldiers of the 6th Squadron dug in and began their mission to advise and assist the Iraqi Security Forces as the ISF assumed more of the daily combat responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Bellard was twenty-six years old when he and his unit

were conducting ground operations on June 13, 2011, when they were engaged by enemy forces in Wasit Province in the easternmost part of Iraq; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Bellard and Sergeant Glenn Sewell were both mortally wounded when insurgents command detonated an improvised explosive device during the squadron's patrol; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Bellard, bravely serving his second combat tour in Iraq, was a disciplined, courageous leader and the troopers of his squadron counted on him for direction when the chips were down; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Bellard's loss is immeasurable, as his wife, daughter, family and friends struggle with the knowledge that their world is darker without him but comforted that he touched so many in a positive fashion; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Bellard's awards and decorations include two Army Commendation Medals, five Army Achievement Medals, a Meritorious Unit Commendation, two Army Good Conduct Medals, the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Defense Service Medal, the Iraqi Campaign Medal with two combat service stars, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Non-commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, the Army Service Ribbon and the Overseas Service Ribbon.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend its deepest and most profound condolences to the family of United States Army Staff Sergeant Nicholas P. Bellard for their terrible loss and his ultimate sacrifice in the war on terror.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Staff Sergeant Bellard's wife, Victoria.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE